



BUILD INDIANA COUNCIL

Infrastructure Media Summary

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Howard County Council says no to J-turns, and urges U.S. 31 freeway completion

Kokomo Tribune
George Myers
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KOKOMO – The Howard County Council has followed the lead of its northern neighbors and voted to tell state officials J-turns are not welcome on U.S. 31. The council recently voted to approve a resolution that urges Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Indiana Department of Transportation Commissioner Joe McGinness to complete U.S. 31 from Hamilton County to Howard County, and on to Marshall County, as a freeway without any of the previously proposed J-turns. Authoring the resolution was Brad Bagwell, an officer on the U.S. 31 Coalition Board who believes transitioning U.S. 31 into a “stoplight-free limited-access freeway” would enhance transportation and increase economic development opportunities for north central Indiana. “This was originally brought up because of the J-turn issue. The state wanted to put J-turns on U.S. 31, and that’s been resolved, at least for now,” said Bagwell, who first submitted the resolution to the council in June. “But we still wanted to go ahead and do this. There are a lot of other things in here, as far as moving forward with U.S. 31.” Last month, the state Department of Transportation announced it will not install J-turns at intersections along U.S. 31 after the proposal received fierce pushback from local officials and area residents. INDOT announced plans earlier this year to eliminate the traffic lights along U.S. 31 at the intersections of Indiana 218 West and Indiana 18 and install J-turns – an alternative to traditional roadway intersections that requires traffic turning onto U.S. 31 to first travel south or north and then make a U-turn into traffic. The proposal drew almost instant criticism from both elected and local officials, who said the move would make the four-lane highway more dangerous and waste taxpayer money on an upgrade that wouldn’t solve any problems. In response, INDOT pulled the proposal for the two Miami County intersections. The department said it is also pulling its plans to install J-turns on U.S. 31 in Marshall County at Indiana 10 and 110, and on U.S. 24 in Cass County at 600 East and Logansport Road. State Rep. Bill Friend, R-Macy, who was an outspoken critic of the proposals, said the decision from INDOT not to move forward came after he and state Sen. Randy Head, R-Logansport, met with INDOT and the Governor’s office to echo the community’s reservations over installing new J-turns. http://www.kokomotribune.com/news/local_news/howard-county-council-says-no-to-j-turns-and-urges/article_707495b0-decb-11e7-bc14-4ffac0fb1b02.html

\$46M in Red Line Rapid Transit Contracts Under Negotiation

Inside Indiana Business
Dan McGowan
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INDIANAPOLIS - IndyGo will begin negotiations on nearly \$46 million in contracts for the first phase of a high-profile mass transit expansion. Phase One of the Red Line rapid transit work

involves road, sidewalk and station canopy construction. The 13-mile Broad Ripple-to-University of Indianapolis campus route is slated to open for service in the spring of 2019. Officials call it "the reliable spine" of a revamped transit system. Voters last year approved a 0.25 percent income tax increase to cover expansion and boost service frequency. IndyGo says bids for the initial phase came in more than 3 percent lower than expected. The work will be performed by Rieth-Riley Construction Co. Inc. and FA Wilhelm Construction. Federal funding approved last year will cover \$50 million and another \$25 million chunk that has yet to receive Congressional approval is expected to come from the federal Small Starts Grant program. Construction could begin as early as the first quarter of 2018.

<http://www.insideindianabusiness.com/story/37025041/46m-in-red-line-rapid-transit-contracts-under-negotiation>

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